

## **Press Release**

For immediate release  
July 12, 2007

Contact: Stephanie Lesko  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Phone: (703) 603-2146  
Fax: (703) 603-0655  
E-mail: [slesko@jwod.gov](mailto:slesko@jwod.gov)

### **Dorothy Hindman Receives Most Valuable AbilityOne Liaison Award**

Arlington, VA – Dorothy Hindman was honored today by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee) for her four-year term as the Department of the Army AbilityOne (formerly Javits-Wagner-O'Day or JWOD) Program liaison. Ms. Hindman is retiring from the federal government after 33 years.

Providing jobs to 48,000 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, the AbilityOne Program is the single largest source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States. This award recognizes AbilityOne liaisons' significant contributions in creating employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities within their respective federal agencies. AbilityOne liaisons are the front line, providing the Committee, National Industries for the Blind (NIB), NISH (creating employment for people with severe disabilities), and AbilityOne-participating nonprofit agencies with procurement news and information from their agencies. Liaisons also disseminate AbilityOne information throughout their organizations.

"Dorothy's numerous efforts have helped individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities to continue to obtain stable, meaningful employment," said Andrew Houghton, Committee Chairperson.

Ms. Hindman is a Senior Procurement Analyst at the Army Contracting Agency. In her capacity as Army AbilityOne Liaison from 2003 through 2007, Ms. Hindman provided outstanding support for the AbilityOne Program in many ways. Along with the then-Army Committee member, Sandra Sieber, Ms. Hindman was instrumental in ensuring inclusion of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act in the Army's office supplies Blanket Purchase Agreement. The Army made distributing AbilityOne products a non-negotiable requirement of the contract.

Ms. Hindman was a strong supporter of the Base Supply Center Program, aggressively supporting the sale of AbilityOne products through numerous Base Supply Centers on Army installations. She also coordinated Pentagon National Disability Employee Awareness Month events, which increase awareness of the AbilityOne Program by providing military customers with the opportunity to interact with participating nonprofit agencies and learn about their capabilities. And, when the Army Committee member retired, Ms. Hindman worked diligently in providing information to White House staff they needed in order to ensure the Army seat was filled in a timely manner.

The Most Valuable Liaison Award was presented at the Committee meeting. NIB and NISH also provided Ms. Hindman with a coin and plaque.

# # #

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is an independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne Program, which creates employment opportunities for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities. The Committee's primary means of achieving its employment goal is through orchestrating government purchases of supplies and services from nonprofit agencies employing such individuals.

National Industries for the Blind is one of the two national, nonprofit organizations designated by the Committee to assist in the implementation of the AbilityOne Program. Together with NISH, which serves people with a range of disabilities, these two agencies assist more than 600 community-based participating nonprofit agencies.